Working with NIST

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Office of Technology Partnerships

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

How to Work with NIST

- Standards
- Collaborative Research & Technology Devolvement Programs
- Invention Licensing

Collaborative Research & Technology Development Programs

- Informal collaboration involving intramural research programs
- Guest Research Agreements
- Facility Use Agreements
- Material Transfer Agreements
- Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA)
- Consortia
- Patent Licensing

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Informal Collaborations on Intramural Research

- Most common form of interaction with university & industry partners Layman's terms to the extent possible
- Rarely any written agreement
- No preferential intellectual property rights – common law
- Proprietary information –should not be any, but if there is - covered by trade secrets act

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Guest Research Agreements

- Most common ‘formal’ partnering agreement (about 1500 per year)
- Purpose - make NIST facilities available for a limited time to researchers collaborating on R&D projects of mutual interest
- Partners
  - Universities
  - Industry
  - Other government agencies
  - Local/state government
  - International institutions

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Facility Use Agreements

PURPOSE - industry use of designated NIST measurement equipment and facilities

CRITERIA

- Not competitive with private sector
- Equal access
- Availability
- Cost recovery
- Safety

TYPE

- Proprietary
- Non-Proprietary

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Examples of Designated Facilities

- Research Reactor
- Cx-137 Gamma-Ray Sources
- Small-Angle X-Ray Scattering
- Large Environmental Chamber
- Nitrogen Flow Measurement
- Heat Release Rate Calorimeter
- Thermal Pulse Facility

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Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)

CRADAS provide partners with rights not available under any other form of agreement

- Potential to protect NIST's CRADA research results from the Freedom of Information Act.
- Provide an option to negotiate an exclusive license to NIST'S ownership in any CRADA inventions without going through a public process.

Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) continuation

- Either party may contribute equipment, facilities, personnel, Intellectual Property

- NIST cannot provide funds to the collaborator but partners may provide funds to NIST.

NOTE: CRADAs do not fall under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR)

Consortia CRADAS

Consortia are governed by identical agreements with several industry partners

Consortia agreements may be in the form of an MOU or under the CRADA authority

Examples of new consortia in the process of being formed:

- Gene Expression Metrology Consortium
- External RNA Control Consortium
- Assessment of Furnace Performance During Standard Wall Assembly Fire Resistance Testing
- Fire Resistive Materials for Structural Steel
- Flame Retardant Foam Flammability Research Consortium

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Invention Licensing

NIST pursues patent protection for a technology when:

- The patent may enhance its commercialization or use by industry; or
- Seeking patent protection is required under a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA); and or
- Patent protection is needed for other mission related reasons.

Contact Information

- For further information contact:

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